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	Geographical Miles.
5*a*. Bagomoyo to Zanzibar	35
6. Bagomoyo to north of Lake Nyassa	290
7. Down Lake Nyassa to Livingstonia	300
8. Livingstonia to Tete	145
9. Tete to Pretoria	820
	3335
To which must be added for deviations, say about one-fifth, viz:	667
Making in all	4002

The practicability of making and keeping open such a line is asserted by Capt. Cameron, Mr. H. M. Stanley, Mr. Ziegler, Director of the London and Red Sea Coast Telegraphs, Sir. F. Goldsmid, of the overland Indian Telegraph, and others. Meanwhile the British Government has decided to lay a cable from Aden to Zanzibar, thence to Port Natal *via* Mozambique and Delagoa bay. Madagascar and the Mauritius may also be connected with this line.

MICROSCOPY.[1]

American Society of Microscopists.—This Society, which was the outgrowth of the Microscopical Congress at Indianapolis, last summer, is making arrangements to meet at Buffalo on Tuesday morning, August 19th, with the probability that its sessions will continue until Friday night the 22d. This will leave ample time for those who wish to attend also the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Saratoga, on the 27th of the same month. The people of Buffalo have organized a local committee, with sub-committees on finance, on transportation, on accommodations and rooms, on entertainments, and on microscopical soirée. The place for headquarters of the Society, and for holding the meetings, has not yet been finally decided upon, but will soon be announced. Arrangements are being made with great care and consideration, and those who remember the superb reception given in that city to the A. A. A. S. a few years ago, will need no assurance that the meeting will be made pleasant as well as profitable.

National Committee on Micrometry.—This committee, in the formation of which most of the active microscopical societies of the country have taken part, has been organized with the following officers and members: F. A. P. Barnard, LL.D., president of Columbia College, N. Y. city, chairman; R. H. Ward, M.D., Troy, N.Y., secretary; George E. Fell, C.E., Buffalo, N.Y.; Henry Jameson, M.D., Indianapolis, Indiana; Prof. S. A. Lattimore, Rochester, N.Y.; Prof. Edward W. Morley, Hudson, Ohio; Joseph G. Richardson, M.D., Philadelphia, Pa.; Prof. Stephen P. Sharples, Boston, Mass.; Prof. H. L. Smith, Geneva, N.Y.; Prof. Albert H. Tuttle, Columbus, Ohio; J. J. Woodward, M.D., Wash-

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[1] This department is edited by Dr. R. H. Ward, Troy, N. Y.

ington, D.C.; Lester Curtis, M. D., Chicago, Ill.; the San Francisco society is represented on the committee, though not yet by a western man. The committee is already engaged in discussion of the large number of reports and letters that have been received on the subject.

LEAD CELLS.—Cells may be made readily, and at small expense, from the thin sheets of lead with which tea boxes are ordinarily lined. This material may be obtained from any grocer, and is prepared expeditiously by the following method: It should be smoothed by rubbing and slightly moistened with water, so that when placed upon a turn table it will adhere sufficiently to be marked with a lead pencil. Using thin glass covers as patterns concentric rings may be traced and then removed by means of the sharp point of a penknife. The rings thus formed may be fixed upon the slide with cement, and the depth of the cell increased by placing several of these upon each other, allowing a sufficient interval for partial drying. Shallow cells in particular are formed with the greatest ease by this method, and they seem to be durable.—*M. A. Veeder, Lyons, N. Y.*

[Cells of paper or cardboard are made with great success in the same way, on the modern turntables. Tin or lead cells are generally attached to the slide with Kill's cement or shellac varnish. —ED.]

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— The National Academy of Sciences, held its spring session in Washington, commencing April 15th. A number of important papers were read, and election for officers was held. This resulted in the election of Prof. Wm. B. Rogers, of Boston, as president, and Prof. O. C. Marsh as vice-president; Prof. J. H. C. Coffin, home secretary; Prof. F. A. P. Barnard, foreign secretary; Fairman Rogers, treasurer; Professors Baird, Agassiz, Newcomb, W. Gibbs and A. Hall, and General M. C. Meigs, members of council. The new members of the Academy elected at this meeting are Prof. Cleveland Abbe, distinguished for his researches in meteorology; Prof. J. W. Farlow, botanist, of Harvard University; Dr. Horatio C. Wood, of Philadelphia, prominent in biology; and Prof. J. Willard Gibbs, of New Haven, a student of mathematical physics. The following are among the papers read: S. H. Scudder, The Palæozoic cockroaches; S. Weir Mitchell, The relations of neuralgic pains to storms and to the earth's magnetism; Joseph LeConte, On the extinct volcanoes about Lake Mono, and their relations to the glacial drift; E. D. Cope, On the extinct species of the rhinoceros and allied forms, of North America; E. W. Hilgard, The loess of the Mississippi and the æolian hypothesis; G. K. Gilbert, On the stability and instability of drainage lines; C. V. Riley, The hybernations and migrations of *Aletia argillacea* (the parent of the cotton worm); A. Agassiz, Report on dredgings in